(b) to (d) During the 10th Plan, creation of 5 crore employment opportunities have been targeted and special emphasis has been given to Agriculture, Irrigation, Agro-Forestry, Small and Medium Enterprises, Information Communication Technology, Tourism and other services. This will help the unemployed persons in Punjab and Maharashtra also.

Policy for unemployed persons

†971. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated and uneducated unemployed in the country;

(b) whether Government are considering to call a meeting of labour Ministers and Chief Ministers for formulating a new comprehensive policy about unemployed persons;

(c) whether Government are going to provide any special assistance to the States like Uttaranchal to deal with this problem where average number of educated unemployed persons is very large; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Number of educated (10th standard & above) and uneducated jobseekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on December 2002 were 296.68 lakh and 115.03 lakh respectively.

(b) At present, there is no proposal in the Ministry of Labour and Employment to call a meeting of Labour Ministers and Chief Ministers for formulating a new comprehensive policy about unemployed persons.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal in the Ministry of Labour & Employment to provide any special assistance to any State to deal with problem of educated unemployed.

Child Labour Project of Maharashtra

972. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has been

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.